

## **Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee Meeting<sup>1</sup>**

**7 – 8 March 2013, Vienna**

### **Final Report**

#### Opening of the meeting and welcome by UNEP Vienna - ISCC

Mr. Harald Egerer, the Head of UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna – ISCC) welcomed the participants to the Carpathian Network of the Protected Areas Steering Committee (CNPA SC) meeting<sup>2</sup> in the Vienna International Centre. The interim chair of the CNPA SC and Lead Partner of BIOREGIO Carpathians project, Mr. Mircea Verghelet, Piatra Craiului National Park, opened the meeting.

#### Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting Agenda was adopted with some changes in the order of the Agenda items.

#### Summary of the main outcomes of the Biodiversity WG meeting by the Chair

Mr. Verghelet made a short summary of the main outcomes of the Biodiversity WG meeting which took place from 6 to 7 March 2013, within which were mainly discussed the paper version of the Biodiversity Protocol Implementation Report Format and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System.

#### Update on the BIOREGIO Carpathians project by Piatra Craiului National Park (BIOREGIO Carpathians Lead Partner)

Mr. Verghelet presented the BIOREGIO Carpathians project and updated the meeting participants on its status of implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> Organised within the European Transnational Cooperation South East Europe Programme BIOREGIO Carpathians

<sup>2</sup> The meeting is organised and financed within the BIOREGIO Carpathians project – WP 4

Presentation of the updated version of the Second CNPA Conference Draft Programme by WWF DCP and of the Workshop “Exchange of ideas for future cooperation” by WWF DCP and UNEP Vienna – ISCC, discussion

Ms. Hildegard Meyer, WWF Danube Carpathians Programme (WWF DCP), presented the updated version of the Second CNPA Conference Programme. Some changes to the document, including also modifications to the time schedule of the Conference, were made.

It was agreed that Mr. Jan Kadlecik, State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNCSR) and CNPA NFP of Slovakia, will request to the Ministry of the Environment of Slovakia and his colleagues of the SNCSR which is the most suitable time for the Joint CNPA Conference – BioREGIO Carpathians Mid Term Conference Press Event.

Mr. Giacomo Luciani, EURAC Expert Team – ISCC, made a request to Mr. Kadlecik for possible participation of representatives of Ministry of Slovakia and SNCSR at the BIOREGIO Carpathians Mid Term Conference.

Concerning the financial issues, Ms. Hildegard Meyer informed that WWF DCP will reimburse 1 person per Protected Area at the Conference.

During the meeting it was proposed to send personal invitation to the Conference to Ukrainian participants, taking into account a necessity of issuing visas for their participation in the Conference.

The meeting participants agreed to establish 4 working groups (WG) during the CNPA Plenary Session II for the discussion of the CNPA Medium Term Work Plan dealing with the following topics:

1. Working Group 1 – Conservation
2. Working Group 2 – Networking towards cooperation including communication, education and thematic working groups
3. Working Group 3 – Carpathian Convention
4. Working Group 4 – Regional development & financial opportunities

Capacity building would be included in all working groups.

Documents that should be provided for the facilitators at least one week prior to the Conference: CNPA Medium Term Strategy, Medium Term Work Plan, survey that was carried out in 2003 by ALPARC, and instructions/guidelines on the discussion aim and

topics .

Mr. Egerer made a proposal to launch the mentioned above WGs as part of the CNPA structure, in order to keep them functioning also after the Conference.

Mr. Verghelet and Mr. Egerer would have a joint presentation of the CNPA in the framework of the Carpathian Convention which will be the first keynote speech on Day 2.

Presentation of the Draft Second CNPA Conference Declaration Paper by WWF DCP and discussion

Mr. Cristian Papp, WWF DCP, presented the Draft Second CNPA Conference Declaration Paper, which will be discussed and signed at the Conference by its participants. During the meeting a revised version of the Declaration Paper was discussed and developed.

Presentation of the Draft CNPA Medium Term Work Plan by UNEP Vienna – ISCC and discussion

After the presentation of the Draft CNPA Medium Term Work Plan given by Mr. Luciani, the document was further discussed and modified by the meeting participants, that agreed on the need to adopt the CNPA Medium Term Work Plan at the Conference and later on to ask the CCIC to submit it to COP 4 for consideration.

The UNEP Vienna – ISCC will prepare a second version of the Work Plan in excel format, taking into account also the ALPARC format, to be filled in on the basis of the inputs of the Conference participants and will circulate it to the meeting participants at the end of March 2013.

Presentation of the status of the draft regional development opportunities and common integrated management measures (CIMM) reports developed within BIOREGIO Carpathians WP 4 by WWF DCP and discussion

Ms. Meyer update the meeting participants about the current status of data collection regarding the study on Regional Development Opportunities (RDO) and Common Integrated Management Measures (CIMM) related activities developed within the BIOREGIO Carpathians WP 4.

Update on the CNPA Management Unit by UNEP Vienna – ISCC and discussion

Mr. Egerer informed the meeting participants about two offers regarding the establishment

of the CNPA Management Unit. One of them came from OZ Pronatur, Slovakia, which cooperates with the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, and the other from the Association of Natural Protected Areas Administrations (ANPAA), Romania.

According to what has been decided by the Fourth Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) meeting held in Vienna on 05-07 December 201, the CCIC “Requests the BIOREGIO Carpathians project to assist the Secretariat in servicing the CNPA” and Mr. Egerer informed the meeting participants that UNEP Vienna – ISCC will invest part of its budget under the BIOREGIO Carpathians project in order to establish the provisional CNPA Management Unit.

After discussion, it was decided by the UNEP Vienna – ISCC to establish a joint CNPA Management Unit and to divide the tasks between the two offering organizations according to their experiences and capacities. The CNPA SC welcomed the UNEP Vienna – ISCC decision.

UNEP Vienna – ISCC will prepare the CNPA Unit Terms of Reference in due time in order to make the CNPA Management Unit operational.

#### Next steps

Mr. Egerer proposed to shift the management of the CNPA web page from ALPARC to the CNPA Management Unit with the agreement of the meeting participants.

The ISCC will circulate all the documents discussed at the meeting with the agreed modifications and will send them to the meeting participants for their possible further comments and inputs in order to make them public to the CNPA Conference participants before the event.

#### Closure of the meeting

Mr. Mircea Verghelet and Mr. Harald Egerer thanked the meeting participants for their contribution to the discussion and declared the meeting closed.

## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ALPARC	Alpine Network of Protected Areas
ANPAA	Association of Natural Protected Areas Administrations
Biodiversity WG	Carpathian Convention Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity
CCIC	Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee
CIMM	Common Integrated Management Measures
CNPA SC	Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee
COP 4	Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention
SNCSR	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
RDO	Regional Development Opportunities
UNEP Vienna – ISCC	United Nations Environment Programme Vienna Office - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
WP	Work Package
WWF DCP	WWF Danube Carpathian Programme